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	CLENNEN & FISH	EXAMINER		
WORLD TRADE CENTER WEST 155 SEAPORT BOULEVARD			RAMANA, ANURADHA	
BOSTON, MA 02210-2604			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3732	
			DATE MAILED: 08/22/2003	12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No.	<u> </u>		ΛK				
### Examiner Art Unit Anuradha Ramana 3732 ### APINETIC PROJECT OF This communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address ### Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of lines may be available under the provisions of 30 CFR 1,130(s). In no event, however, may a reply be linely filed. If the portion drugh sported date is less than thirty (30) days, a reply which the statisticy minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. If the portion drugh sported date than their mortilis of the statistic prefet of villagibly and vide aligned SK (8) MCNTH'S from the railling date of this communication. Even if linely filed. They reduce any searced place to may apply the date of this communication, even if linely filed, may reduce any searced place to tem alignation. #### Application is FINAL. #### 2015 This action is FINAL. ### 2016 This action is FINAL. ### 2017 This action is FINAL. ### 2018 This action is action is action in act	•	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
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2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1,3-15 and 37 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7) Claim(s) 13-6 and 37 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on is: a) opproved b) disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action. 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121. Attachment(s)	A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).						
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Application/Control Number: 09/845,898

Art Unit: 3732

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Semm (US 5,201,739) in view of Blake (US 5,944,729).

Regarding claims 1, 3-6 and 37, Semm discloses a medical instrument 1 which can be used as a gripping instrument having: a body 7 with a tissue grasping claws 8, 9 selectively movable between an open position and a closed position with the tissue grasping claws biased to a closed position; an actuating member with opposed members 3, 2 mated to the body and effective to move the claws between open and closed positions wherein the tissue grasping claws form a substantially circular shape in a closed position (col. 1, lines 56-64, col. 4, lines 8-35 and lines 42-60, col. 5, lines 5-12 and lines 19-34 and Figures 1-3). The initial statement of intended use and all other functional implications related thereto have been considered but do not appear to impose any patentably distinguishing structure over that disclosed by Semm.

Semm does not disclose a flexible member attached to body 7 of medical instrument 1.

Blake teaches attachment of a flexible member 48 to a medical device 10 for placement, withdrawal, or maneuvering of device 10 (col. 3, lines 32-41).

Accordingly it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have attached a flexible member 48, as taught by Blake, to the medical instrument 1 of Semm to enable maneuvering of the Semm-Blake device.

The method steps of claim 37 are performed during normal operation of the Semm-Blake medical instrument for the purpose of gripping tissue or an organ.

Application/Control Number: 09/845,898

Art Unit: 3732

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anu Ramana whose telephone number is (703) 306-4035. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (703) 308-2582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

AR Anwadha famara

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700